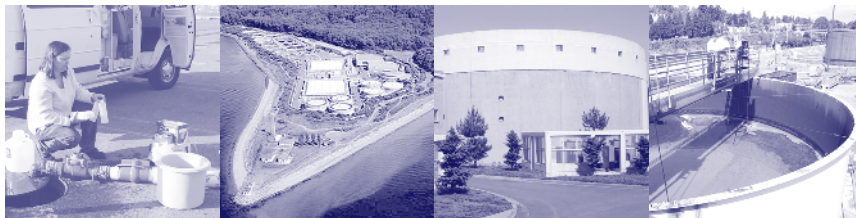


Fact Sheet: Understanding charges and fees for sending industrial wastewater to the King County sewer system



King County

Department of
Natural Resources and Parks
Wastewater Treatment Division
Industrial Waste Program

June 2015

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Industrial Waste Program is to protect the environment, public health, biosolids quality, and King County's regional sewerage systems. We work cooperatively with our customers as we regulate industrial discharges, provide technical assistance, and monitor the regional sewerage system.

About this fact sheet

This fact sheet provides information about charges and fees for customers sending commercial and industrial wastewater to the King County sewer system. These wastewater discharges come from industrial and manufacturing companies, government operations and other facilities as well as from construction site dewatering, groundwater remediation and contaminated industrial stormwater. All of these dischargers are referred to as facilities in this fact sheet.

The King County sewer system

King County protects water quality and public health in the central Puget Sound region by providing high quality and effective treatment to wastewater collected from local sewer agencies. The County's Wastewater Treatment Division serves about 1.5 million people within a 420-square-mile service area, which includes most urban areas of King County and parts of south Snohomish County and northeast Pierce County.

KCIW charges and fees – their purpose and calculation

The program applies charges and fees to meet the goal of recovering the costs of producing and administering discharge approvals, operating monitoring programs, and conducting post-violation activities and for the cost of the operation



and maintenance of the high-strength waste program.

Each year the King County Industrial Waste Program (KCIW) reviews its fees to accurately recover the above costs. The program determines these charges and fees using established internal procedures as allowed within the King County Code. (See "KCIW's Authority" below.)

The program produces an annual list of fees and charges that go into effect annually on July 1. The list is also available on the program's Web pages and by request, and is supplied to all facilities applying for approval to discharge industrial wastewater.

KCIW's authority to charge fees

The Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendment of 1972 requires municipalities to establish and administer fees to ensure industrial users pay their proportionate share of the costs of operation and maintenance. King County authorizes the KCIW fees through King County Code 28.84.050 and 060.

KCIW charges and fees – their purpose and calculation

Fee/charge	Bill paid to	
1. Industrial wastewater discharge approval fees: Program's costs in administering approvals	King County	For more information on these fees and charges, contact KCIW
2. Post-violation inspection and monitoring fees: Pays for costs of increased monitoring of facilities violating pretreatment permit requirements		
3. Fines: For facilities with industrial wastewater of discharge violations		
4. Compliance monitoring charges: Program's costs in monitoring permitted discharges	Applicable local sewer agency	Contact KCIW with questions about assigned waste strength and surcharges
5. High-strength waste surcharge program: Pays for cost of treatment of high-strength wastes discharged by each facility		Contact local agencies for information about their billing practices

KCIW fees and charges (effective July 1, 2015, through June 30, 2016)

1. Permit/authorization fees		3. Fines	
Discharge Permit	\$4,505	Violators are subject to fines up \$10,000 per violation per day	
Major Discharge Authorization	\$2,280	4. Compliance monitoring charges	
Minor Discharge Authorization	\$1,200	Heavy metals	\$0.003579/gal.
Letter of Authorization	\$ 750	Fats oils and grease (FOG)	\$0.000382/gal.
2. Post violation fees: sampling and analysis costs		5. High strength surcharge	
BNAs (semi-volatile organics)	\$1,605	Biological oxygen demand (BOD)	\$0.189482/lb
Cyanide (amenable to chlorination)	\$1,005	Total suspended solids (TSS)	\$0.310245/lb
Cyanide (total)	\$ 755		
Free-floating polar FOG	\$ 505		
Nonpolar FOG	\$ 645		
Heavy metals	\$ 695		
pH (grab)	\$ 505		
pH (24-hour continuous monitoring)	\$1,010		
Settleable solids (volumetric)	\$ 555		
VOAs (volatile organics)	\$1,305		
Full Enforcement Action	\$5,000		
Enforcement - No Further Action	\$2,500		
Inspection	\$ 535		

King County Industrial Waste Program (KCIW)

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www.kingcounty.gov/industrialwaste

1. Industrial wastewater discharge approval fees

These fees cover KCIW's costs in administering industrial wastewater discharge approvals: discharge permits, discharge authorizations, and Letters of Authorization. When the program determines that a facility's application to discharge is complete, it identifies the type of discharge approval that the facility should have. Determined annually, the fees for administering these approvals are based on time studies. Costs vary with the complexity of the types of discharge approvals.

The program issues discharge approval documents for up to five years. KCIW allows a facility to request one free revision during the duration of any discharge approval document, with any revisions initiated by KCIW free of charge. KCIW also issues, free of charge, verbal approvals for short-term, small volume discharges that have limited contamination and generally pose no risk to the County's sewer system.

2. Post-violation inspection and monitoring fees

The program may also charge facilities that violate pretreatment permit requirements for increased monitoring of their discharges. The fees recover the costs of this monitoring. Facilities may also be responsible for any damages caused by violations including sewer line cleaning, and/or repair.

3. Fines

Facilities with industrial wastewater discharge or permit violations are subject to fines up to \$10,000 per violation per day. Dischargers are also liable for any damages and additional costs caused by their discharges.

4. Compliance monitoring charges

KCIW recovers expenses for monitoring permitted facilities for their compliance with discharge limits for pollutants such as heavy metals, fats, oils, and grease (FOG), organics, settleable solids, or pH in their discharges. These expenses include the cost of program administration, discharge approval management, sampling and laboratory analysis. For the majority of dischargers that are monitored for heavy metals or FOG, the monitoring charges are based on the volume of industrial wastewater discharged to the sewer system and are specific to the individual facility. For specialized or low-volume dischargers fees may need to be based on actual costs incurred.

King County forwards facilities' compliance monitoring charges to the applicable local sewer agencies. Billing may be adjusted based to the local sewer agency's billing cycle. (For instance, a facility may continue to be billed when it ends its discharge permit, due to the timing of its local sewer agency's billing cycle.)

5. High-strength waste surcharge program

KCIW, required by federal regulations to have a fair and equitable cost-recovery system for users of the sewage system, initiated a surcharge program in 1977 to ensure that facilities discharging high-strength wastes pay for their increased treatment costs. Industries typically subject to surcharge fees include commercial bakeries; breweries, wineries; and laundries; dairy, meat, and fish processors; soft drink bottlers and tanker truck cleaners.

King County uses Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD), and Total Suspended Solids (TSS) as criteria to determine a waste strength for each facility. The County classifies facilities discharging waste with a BOD greater than 300 milligrams per liter (mg/l) or TSS greater than 400 mg/l as high-strength dischargers. KCIW bases each facility's surcharge fee on annual levels of BOD and TSS and the amount of wastewater discharged.

Other King County sewage charges for industrial dischargers:

King County sewage treatment charge

Nearly all industrial facilities in the County discharge wastewater to sewer lines operated by their local sewer agencies. This annually adopted charge recovers King County's costs for transporting and treating sewage, as well as building and maintaining the sewerage system.

The local agencies that send wastewater to the King County sewer system collect fees for sewage treatment of industrial wastewater from dischargers located in their districts. This charge applies to all discharges - including contaminated stormwater, groundwater remediation, and construction dewatering projects.

Under special circumstances, King County bills some wastewater dischargers directly for sewage treatment charges, such as those discharging directly into a county trunk sewer without first going through a local sewer agency's system.

King County capacity charge

Since 1990, King County has levied a capacity charge on new connections to the sewer system, which new customers pay in addition to their monthly sewer bill. The capacity charge helps King County cover the cost of sewer improvement and expansion projects needed to serve new growth. The charge is collected by the King County Wastewater Treatment Division.

Since King County may include the maximum permitted discharge volume from the KCIW discharge approval to calculate the capacity charge, the program cautions industrial wastewater dischargers with new connections to provide carefully determined estimates for the maximum volumes required in their approval applications.

See King County Capacity Charge Program, Contacts, page 6.

About KCIW

KCIW administers the County's industrial waste regulations for businesses, government entities, and other facilities that discharge industrial wastewater to King County's sewage treatment plants. Program activities include administration of industrial wastewater discharge permits, inspections, enforcement, sample collection to determine compliance, and collection of monitoring fees.

KCIW welcomes the opportunity to explain its regulations and procedures to all who wish to contact the program. (See page 6.)

The program provides detailed Internet pages at www.kingcounty.gov/industrialwaste. Learn more about the program via its general fact sheet "Discharging industrial wastewater to the King County sewer system," available on the program's Web pages or by contacting the program.

Frequently asked questions

Minimum discharge billed

Is there a minimum volume of industrial wastewater discharge that can be billed?

Facilities should contact their local sewer agency for its determination of the minimum volume to be billed. King County's minimum volume is based on the unit of one residential customer equivalent, which is 750 cubic feet - or approximately 5,600 gallons.

Exemptions, appeals, and refunds

Is any company or facility exempt from charges and fees?

Charges and fees apply to all industrial wastewater dischargers, including government agencies, except where there are applicable exceptions such as stormwater runoff into the combined sewer system.

Appealing charges, fees, and fines

King County Code specifies an appeal procedure for permits, discharge authorizations, violations, and penalties under King County Code 28.84.050 and 28.84.060.

Appealing the high-strength surcharge: To appeal the fee, facilities must establish that the assigned levels are incorrect. (See "High-strength waste surcharge program," page 3.) Facilities should consult with the KCIW compliance investigator they work with to learn more about this process.

Appealing post-violation charges and fines: KCIW provides the procedures to those being fined when it provides the Notice of Violation or Enforcement Action document.

Can a facility that has received a Letter of Authorization receive a refund if it subsequently does not discharge?

No. KCIW typically issues Letters of Authorization for smaller and short-term discharges, often for planned construction dewatering discharges to the sewer system. Sometimes these discharges do not occur and facilities request a refund. Created to recover the costs of producing the document, the fee that KCIW charges for a Letter of Authorization cannot be refunded once it is issued.

Can a facility be refunded the permit or discharge authorization fee?

No, because the document has already been issued by the time the facility is billed.

Metering and flows

When do facilities need meters to monitor their sewer outflow? Who do they contact to find out if they need meters?

Sewer bills are normally based on the water delivered to a facility. If facilities have water processes where a significant amount of water is lost through evaporation, or if exempt meters are impractical, facilities might consider having their sewer charges based on sewer meters read by their local sewer agencies.

Do local sewer agencies need to apply sewer charges if the wastewater does not go through a meter?

Yes. A common example of this is construction dewatering discharges. Sewer charges have to be paid for all water discharged to the sewer system, except stormwater runoff in combined sewer areas.

Discharging industrial wastewater - the clean water connection

When businesses properly dispose of wastewater, the Puget Sound region benefits from cleaner water and reduced wastewater treatment costs. KCIW's goal is to help such facilities comply with the regulations while conducting business.



How are sewer charges calculated if the charges are not based on a sewer or water meter?

In special circumstances approved by local sewer agencies and King County, facilities' sewer charges may be based on the volume of batch discharges, calibrated pump runs, or other acceptable calculations approved by the program.

If a facility's sewer charges are based on water use, what does a facility do if a significant amount of water is going into its product, such as a soft drink bottler or a food products manufacturer?

Facilities that have water going into their products should contact their local sewer agency to install exempt water meters. Local sewer agencies can advise on this matter.

Contacting KCIW:

King County Industrial Waste Program
201 S. Jackson St., Room 513
Seattle, WA 98104-3855
Ph: 206-477-5300 or TTY: 711
Fax: 206-263-3001
info.kciw@kingcounty.gov

Easy link: www.kingcounty.gov/industrialwaste

Use this easy link and follow the menu on our main Internet page to reach all KCIW Internet pages.

Other Contacts:

**King County Wastewater Water Treatment
Division Financial Services**
206-684-1740 or TTY: 711

**King County Wastewater Water Treatment
Division Capacity Charge Program**
206-296-1450 or TTY: 711
E-mail: CapChargeEscrow@kingcounty.gov
[www.kingcounty.gov/environment/
wastewater/capacitycharge.aspx](http://www.kingcounty.gov/environment/wastewater/capacitycharge.aspx)



Creating Resources from Wastewater

**Alternate Formats Available
Voice: 206-477-5300 or TTY: 711**

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